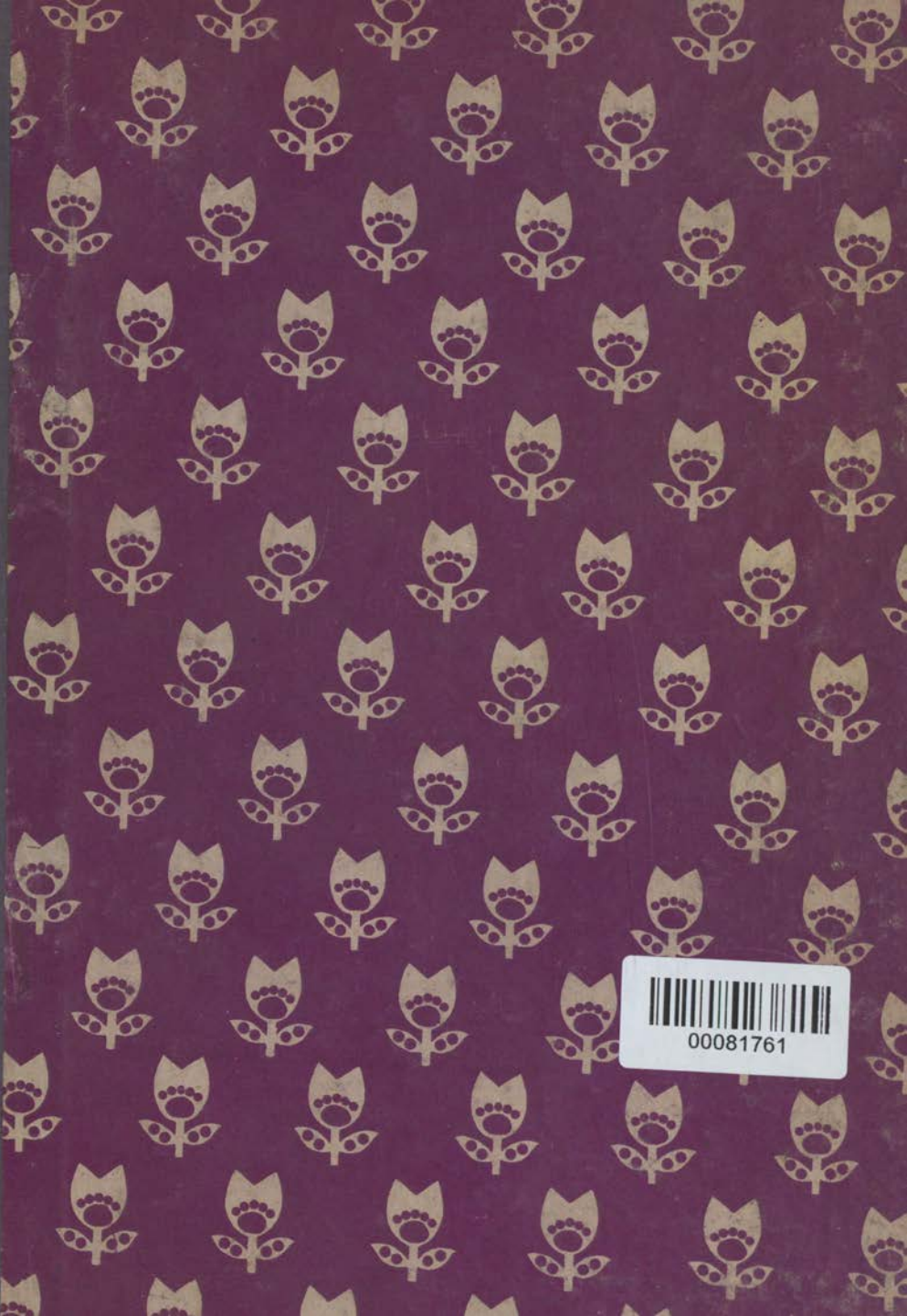
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on 14 February, 2019

THEBES

AND

ITS FIVE GREATER TEMPLES.

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CAPTAIN W. DE W. ABNEY, R.E., F.R.S.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FORTY LARGE PERMANENT PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE AUTHOR,

AND DESCRIPTIVE TEXT.

T-b. 61

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00081761

TO

THE HON. MRS. A. C. CAMPBELL, OF BLYTHSWOOD,

These Sun Pictures are Dedicated,

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE NILE VOYAGE IN THE AUTUMN OF 1874.

PREFACE.

SENT out by the English Government to observe the late transit of Venus, it was decided that the Author, with a party of three men of the Royal Engineers, should be detached from the head-quarters of the Egyptian Expedition located at Cairo, under Captain Orde Browne (late) R.A., and proceed to Thebes, to undertake the photographic work necessary for recording the different phases of the phenomenon. Accompanied by Colonel Campbell, of Blythswood, and party, whose mission was that of visually observing the transit from the same locality, the detachment arrived at their destination early in November, 1874. Their stay was necessarily one of comparatively long duration, and in the intervals of leisure, excursions were made to the different places of interest with which they were surrounded. The camera was a never-failing source of amusement to all, and the sun pictures obtained in a climate which at that time of year was very oppressive, whiled away many an hour which might have been less profitably spent.

The apology that the Author has to offer for publishing these sun pictures is that, perhaps, some who have visited Theban ground may

ɛe to recall the scenes which must have impressed them with onderment, and that others to whom Egypt is a *terra incognita*, may .in an idea, though of necessity imperfect, of the marvellous architectural eations of a race whose early history is as yet shrouded in obscurity.

The information comprised in the descriptive text has been largely ken from the works of Sir Gardner Wilkinson, Belzoni, Fergusson, ıd other authorities on Egyptology.

The best thanks of the Author are due to Corporals Laffeaty, Milne, ıd Farr, of the Royal Engineers, for the never-failing aid they rendered m whilst photographing the different scenes of interest in Egypt, .thout such co-operation the task now accomplished would have en doubly difficult.

ROCHESTER,
15th May, 1876.

Plan of Modern Thebes

Papyrotype

School of Military Engineering Chatham

THEBES.

SOME 600 miles above the mouth of the Nile, and situated on its banks, are the remains of what once was the most splendid city in Upper Egypt, a city whose praises have been sung by poets, and whose glories have been described by the earliest classical historians. Now, alas! all that exists to tell of what Thebes once was are its temple-palaces of still unrivalled grandeur, the tombs of its early kings and nobility, and here and there a monument, which marks the site where buildings, long since swept away, once stood.

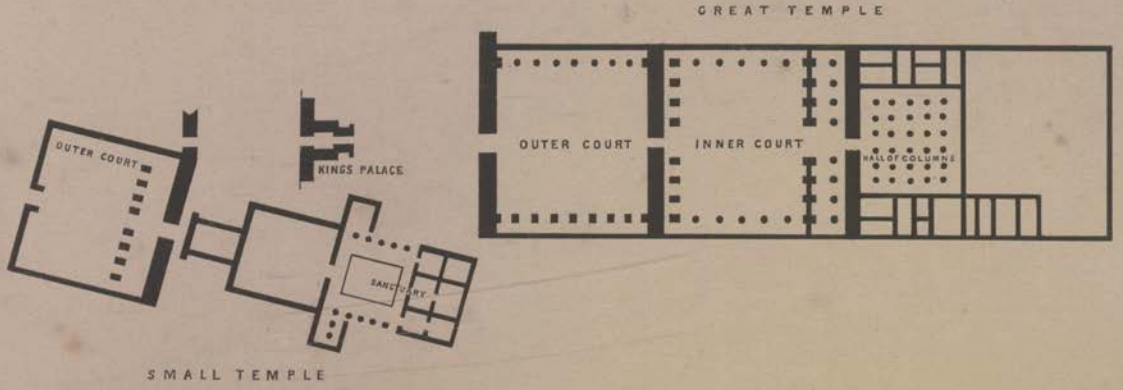
Thebes was justly constituted the capital of Upper Egypt, and, indeed, it is supposed to have derived its name from a corruption of Apé or Tapé, "the head." The wealth of Central Africa poured into it through Ethiopia, whilst the trade of Arabia and the Indies was directed to it from ports in the Red Sea (which lie only some 100 miles distant from it), arriving in vast caravans across the desert, in preference to finding its way to Lower Egypt through Suez and its neighbourhood. The commerce of these distant climes eventually passed away from it, and an estimate of its importance may be formed from the anxiety to participate in it, which has possessed adjoining countries in all ages. It may be that the early attempts (some successful) to pierce through the Isthmus, and connect the Red Sea with the Mediterranean, were caused by a desire to divert traffic from this great emporium. At all events fate willed that Thebes should ultimately fall in prosperity, and its long siege by Ptolemy Lathyrus gave it a blow from which it never recovered.

The city lay on the eastern and western bank of the river, the former being the most important, the latter being considered more as

a suburb rather than as an integral part of it. The western portion, too, contained the place of sepulture of the community at large, and was probably chosen for this purpose owing to the close approach of the Libyan range to the river's bank, the soft stone of these hills giving every facility for forming rock-cut tombs. Though Thebes is sung of by Homer as "hundred-gated," yet it is more than doubtful if she ever possessed that number of gates, but rather that he used the expression metaphorically, referring to the many noble pylons which existed, and of which there are still so many remains extant. Its history, though still shrouded in obscurity, yet day by day is being read more clearly, as the numberless inscriptions and freshly-discovered papyruses are discussed by the light of modern research. Ere long we may hope to assign to events dates more specific than we can at present. From what has already been discovered it seems no longer doubtful that Thebes must have passed through stirring times at an era when our usually accepted chronology seems to be at fault. The first Theban dynasty, it has been computed on good evidence by Mariette Bey, must have been in power some 3000 years before Christ; whilst the earliest Egyptian king, of which there is record, has been supposed, by the same learned author, to have occupied the throne more than 5000 years before Christ, or 1000 years anterior to the formerly supposed date of the creation of our first parents. By a further study of Egyptology and its kindred sciences, the mystery which envelopes the world's early history may be dispelled, and the apparent discrepancies between biblical and scientific chronology eventually reconciled.

There is a wonderful antithesis between the present mean hovels of unburnt brick, which stand where palaces and villas, with their gardens and farms once flourished, and the solid masonry of the temples, which still serve as the landmarks of time. It needs no knowledge of Egyptology to be impressed with the grandeur of the latter, though the charm is doubled when even a smattering of the nature and meaning of the inscriptions has been acquired.

PLAN
OF THE
TEMPLES OF MEDINET HABOO.



LIBRARY

MEDINET HABOO.

THE COLOSSI OF THE PLAIN.

THE EXTERIOR OF THE SMALL TEMPLE, MEDINET HABOO.

GATEWAY OF THE SMALL TEMPLE.

THE INTERIOR OF THE SMALL TEMPLE.

KING'S PALACE.

SECOND PYLON OF THE GREAT TEMPLE.

OSIRIDE COLUMNS IN THE FIRST COURT OF THE GREAT TEMPLE.

SECOND, OR GRAND COURT OF THE GREAT TEMPLE.

NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF THE GRAND COURT.

EAST END OF THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF THE GRAND COURT.

REMAINS OF THE HYPOSTYLE HALL.

SIDE CHAMBER FROM THE HYPOSTYLE HALL.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE TEMPLE FROM THE NORTH.

III. THE COLOSSI OF THE PLAIN.

The Colossi of the Plain.

THE usual spot for mooring the Nile boats, or dahabeahs, at Thebes, is close to Luxor, which lies on the eastern bank. Crossing over to the western bank of the river you land on a plain of rich arable ground, if it be as late as December in which you are paying your visit to the Theban district, or it will be on the very edge of the desert, if it be as early as October. When we arrived at Luxor, the Nile had just receded to the limits of its banks, and we landed to find that side a mass of black mud and half-dried pools. The Libyan range runs nearly parallel to the river, and leaves but a small sandy stretch above the reach of the waters, but when the crops begin to spring up, the whole area appears decked as with a green carpet. At any season, however, the first objects which arrest the attention are the Colossi, who seem to be the sole monarchs of the plain. Strange have been the vicissitudes of which these giants have been the unmoved spectators, and they unwittingly bear witness to the changes of dynasty and race which from time to time have overtaken the Thebaid. Along a narrow winding track you approach them, and it is not till you are within a stone's throw that you appreciate their massiveness and grandeur. The most northern one (that in the right of the picture), is the celebrated Vocal Memnon, the cause of whose strange utterances at sunrise has provoked so many theories. That the sounds proceeding from it were not the fancies of the devotee are proved by the Greek and Latin inscriptions, seventy-two in number, chiselled on the legs. Unknown individuals here bear testimony to the truth of

the legend. In one inscription we read that three Roman officers, Instuleius Tenax, Valerius Priscus, and Lucius Quintus Viator, "heard Memnon in the year XI. of Nero, our Emperor, the 12th of the calends of April, at 1 o'clock." And again, Titus Lutius Lupus, Prefect of Egypt, says, "I have heard Memnon the 12th of the calends of April, at the 1st hour."

These old monuments, which bear the name of Amunoph III., were the outcome of regal magnificence, being erected by his successors in his honour. Memnon seems to have been a Greek corruption of the name of one of the Egyptian kings, and further reference will be made as to its derivation. The Arabs called these statues "Shama" and "Tama," and when speaking of them together gave them the appellation of Sanamât, or the idols. Both were monoliths of sandstone conglomerate. The northern one, however, was once overthrown and broken, but was repaired by Septimus Severus. We see the marks of the reparation from the shoulders down to the waist, this part being built up of slabs of stone varying in composition from the original blocks.

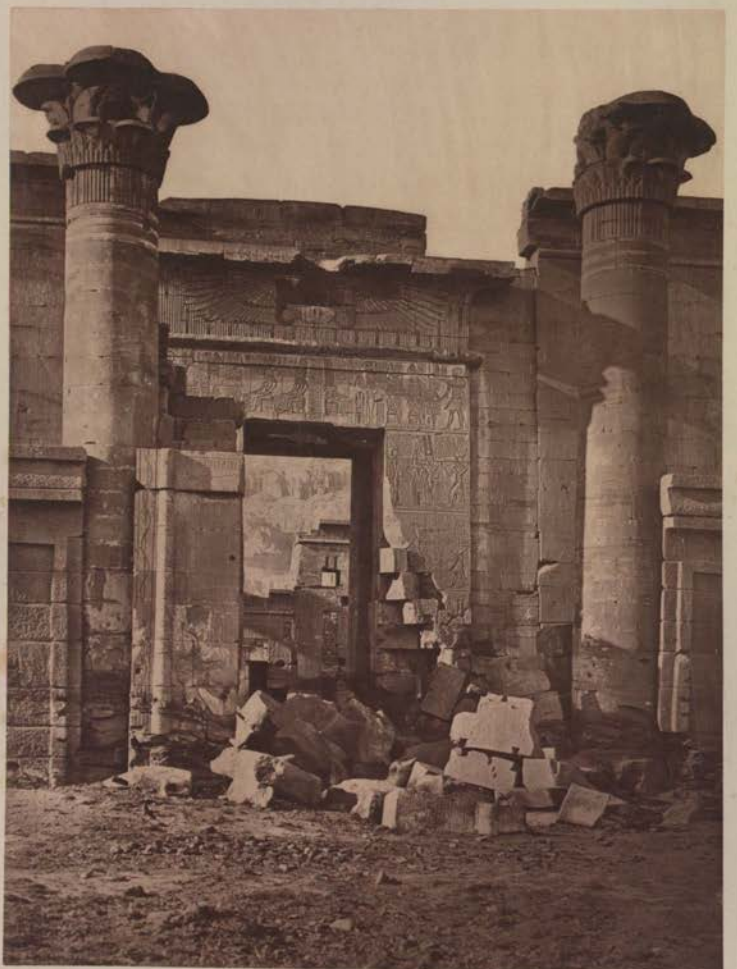
III. EXTERIOR OF THE SMALL TEMPLE, MEDINET HADOO.

The Exterior of the Small Temple,

MEDINET HABOO.

LEAVING the Colossi to the right, and turning to the south-west, a track leads to the ruins of the two temples of Medinet Haboo, both of which are replete with interest, from the inscriptions and historical sketches which they carry on their walls. The greater temple of Medinet Haboo was mentioned by Diodorus as being one of the four great Theban edifices, the other three being (according to Wilkinson) Karnak, Luxor, and the Rameseum or Memnonium. The plan shows the singular disposition of the smaller temple in relation to the greater. The small angle which their axial lines make with one another is remarkable, but there must have been some good reason, when planned, why they should have been thus laid out. These temples are apparently above the reach of the highest Nile, and have therefore suffered less injury to their foundations than has Karnak. The view before us shows the external area, or courtyard, which was enclosed by a wall of comparatively small dimensions. It is about 125 feet by 80, and the northern end is closed by a wall supported by pillars, in rather a ruinous condition. Beyond this again rise the towers of the pylon or gateway, which bear the names of Ptolemy Lathyrus, and Dionysius. Flanking the gateway are two columns also of the Roman period. To the left is the king's palace, bearing sculptures to which reference will be subsequently made. The small enclosed second area, immediately in front of the pylon, has side entrances, one of which can be distinguished near the centre of the photograph.

The larger temple was taken possession of by the early Christians, who converted a portion of it into a church, and built their habitations around. At one period Thebes must have held a prominent position amongst the dioceses of the Coptic Church, though at the time of the Arab invasion, about A.D. 600, the inhabitants fled to Esneh.



IV. GATEWAY OF THE SMALL TEMPLE.

Gateway of the Small Temple.

THIS photograph shows the first pylon of the small temple of Medinet Haboo, with the two circular columns which guard it. The jamb on the right is broken down, and much of the inscription has been lost in consequence. The probable date, however, of the erection of the towers and pylon has been ascertained from the sculptures and hieroglyphics on what remains of the gateway, and which, like all in this temple, are remarkable for their preservation. The entrance to the next area through this gateway is somewhat difficult, large masses of stone lying in disordered heaps across it. The masonry left standing is very perfect, the blocks of sandstone (probably procured from Gebel Silsilis) being so nicely fitted one into the other that it would be difficult to force the blade of a knife in between the joints, although no mortar has been employed. The builders of this portion of the temple must have had a keen eye for artistic effect. The play of sunlight and shadow on the columns and towers, and through the gateway, is at all times beautiful, and give a picturesqueness to the exterior which in a gloomy climate would be wanting. The two external columns were originally part of a series of eight, but even now they serve to heighten the pictorial effect.

The Interior of the Small Temple.

THROUGH the last pylon may be seen another gateway, leading into a small hypæthral court (which can be identified in the plan), the pyramidal towers of which bear the name of the Pharaoh who defeated the Assyrian Sennacherib. Passing through this court and two others beyond, none of which possess much beauty, being destitute of marked features and rather sombre in appearance, a vestibule leading to the Sanctuary is reached. The Sanctuary is surrounded on three sides by a corridor, one portion of which (that in the east) we have chosen as the subject of our photograph, the fourth side being closed by a series of six small dark chambers, whose atmosphere is none of the pleasantest, their roofs being festooned with hundreds of bats.

The original founder of the Sanctuary was Hatasoo, who lived about 1400 B.C., and Thothmes II. and III. completed it. The name of Rameses III. also appears in the sculptures, together with that of one of the Ptolemys, who made some additions to the building.

The lowness of the roof of the peristyle gives a feeling of oppression to the visitor when he first enters, but there is a certain quaintness in design which gradually removes it, and leaves a favourable impression after a study of some short duration. Very modern hieroglyphics, drawn in charcoal, and due to the present natives, adorn the pillars and columns.

VI. THE KING'S PALACE.

King's Palace.

THE southern extremity of the great temple is that shown in the front view of the small temple. It is the palace of King Rameses III., the only example extant, according to Fergusson, which shows domestic architecture.

He says, in his "History of Architecture,"—

"No building can form a greater contrast with the temple behind it than does the little pavilion erected at Medinet Haboo by Rhameses, the first king of the 19th dynasty. As will be seen by the annexed plan, it is singularly broken and varied in outline, surrounding a small court in shape of a cross. It is three stories in height, and, properly speaking, consists of only three rooms on each floor, connected together by long winding passages. There is reason, however, to believe that this is only a fragment of the building, and foundations exist which render it probable that the whole was originally a square of the width of the front, and had other chambers, probably only in wood or brick, besides those we now find. This would hardly detract from the playful character of the design, and when coloured, as it originally was, and with its battlements or ornaments complete, it must have formed a composition as pleasing as it is unlike our usual conceptions of Egyptian art."

On the walls of this interesting relic are sculptured scenes occurring in the domestic life of the king. He is represented in the midst of his family; his daughters, known as princesses by their hair, are playing draughts with him, or present him with flowers. On the front walls,

shown in photograph No. 3, the king is depicted as a victor, smiting the vanquished. These sculptures are the more remarkable as they are in relief, most of the others being in intaglio. When the size of the figures, and area of the walls covered, are taken into account, it will be seen that the labour of executing them must have been enormous.

VII. SECOND PYLON OF THE GREAT TEMPLE

Second Pylon of the Great Temple.

THE first real view of the Temple is obtained by skirting the external walls of the smaller temple, and clambering up a mound composed of the débris of sun-burnt brick houses, from the top of which the first pylon and its towers, with their many interesting historical scenes and inscriptions, meet the eye. The gateway leads into an area, in which the next two photographs were taken. That before us represents the gateway and the western tower. On the base of the jambs of the former (which is of red granite) is an inscription, which translated is as follows :—"Rameses made this building for his father Amunre, and erected for him this fine gateway of good blocks of granite stone, the door itself of wood, embellished with plates of pure gold . . . for his good name (Rameses), Amunre rejoicing to behold it."—*Wilkinson.* On the tower we see the colossal figure of the king Rameses, wearing the crown of Upper and Lower Egypt, and leading his prisoners captive. A careful examination of the wall will show that they are led by a rope, grasped in the right hand, the left arm being extended. The oval, or cartouche, with the king's name, will be noticed just above the eccentric-looking crown. The dimensions of this court are about 110 by 135 feet. The towers of the pylons are connected by two colonnades, that on the western side being formed of columns bearing bell-shaped capitals. Two of these are to be seen on the left of the picture. The original height of the corridor can be judged

from the fact that the floor of the gateway is bare, and not piled up with rubbish, as is the first pylon through which this court is entered.

This portion of the temple must have been very imposing in its pristine condition, if the history of its decorations, as described on its walls, are to be believed.

VIII. OSIRIDE COLUMNS IN THE FIRST COURT OF THE GREAT TEMPLE.

Osiride Columns in the First Court of the Great Temple.

THIS photograph shows the eastern side of the same court: seven rectangular pillars, with osiride figures, all, alas! sadly mutilated, form the interior supports of the corridor. Crowning it are the remains of the sun-burnt brick houses, which but a few years ago were inhabited by the Arabs. The whole of the area is covered with débris, and it was on a crumbling mound of such that the camera was planted to take this view. It seems probable that the osiride figures were destroyed, to the extent they are at present, by the early Christians, whose church, as we shall see, was erected in the next splendid court. From a careful examination it would appear as if the whole area had been converted into dwellings, the joists for the first story being supported upon the shoulders of these figures, the heads and top projections being cut away for convenience sake.

It should be remarked that whilst the number of pillars on this side of the court is seven, that of the columns on the western side, referred to before, is eight. The total disregard of symmetry, so apparent in most Egyptian temples, is here well demonstrated.

IX. SECOND, OR GRAND COURT OF THE GREAT TEMPLE.

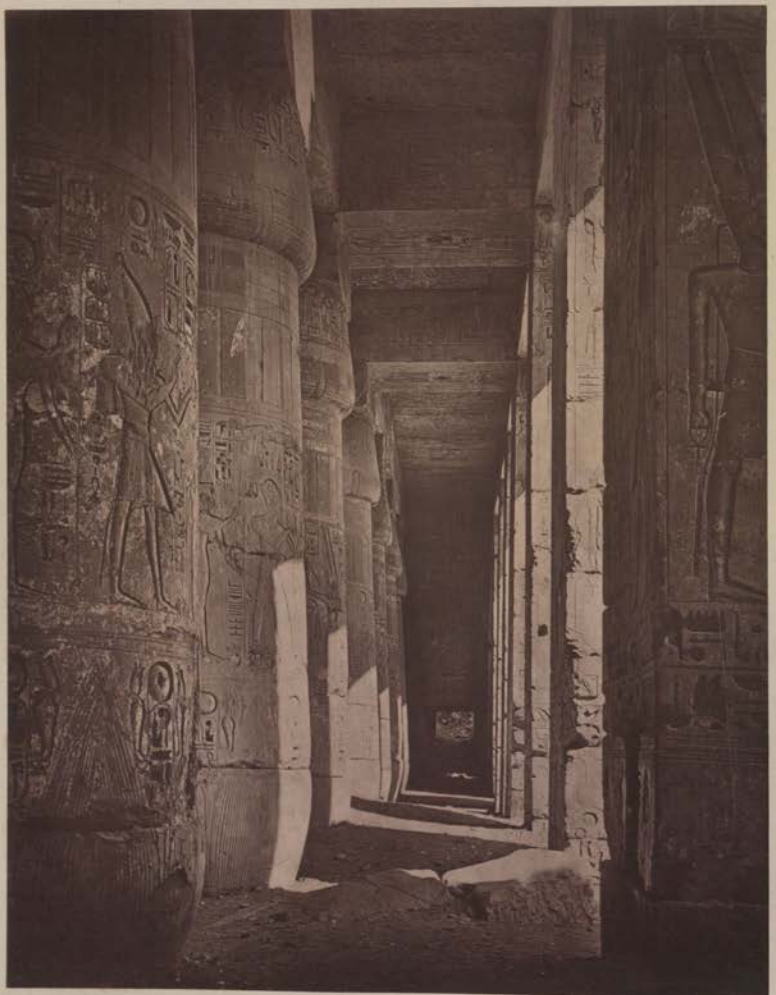
Second or Grand Court of the Great Temple.

THE gateway bounded by the large towers, portions of which were shown in our last two photographs, opens into a courtyard, probably richer in architectural details than any other temple in Egypt, at all events, than any with which the writer is acquainted. Its dimensions are nearly the same as that of the last area, though being free from mud ruins it appears of a larger size. Round it runs a corridor, unique for its beauty and symmetry, particularly on that side which faces you as you enter. On the east and west the supports are circular columns, whilst on the north and south the roof is borne by rectangular pillars, which once were adorned with osiride figures. The northern corridor is externally similar to the southern, but is of double the breadth, a row of central circular bud-headed columns dividing its area; every part is richly decorated with hieroglyphics and sculptures, and on portions of the latter the colouring is still fairly perfect.

It was in this area that the early Christians established their church, rearing pillars of a comparatively mean order of architecture to support the roof which spanned it. On the eastern side they cut away a portion of the corridor, leaving a gap in which was formed an apse. They mutilated the figures which adorned the pillars, and stuccoed the walls so thoroughly, that now the plaster has fallen away the once covered, incised inscriptions are in a complete state of preservation. Ranging round the

area, though luckily only few are left erect, are to be seen the columns of the church referred to; comparatively hideous when standing, they are rather less offensive when lying half buried in the ground. It is to be hoped that some day Mariette Bey may move the Khedive to clear the court of these monstrosities, and leave it in possession of a style of architecture that is surpassingly graceful.

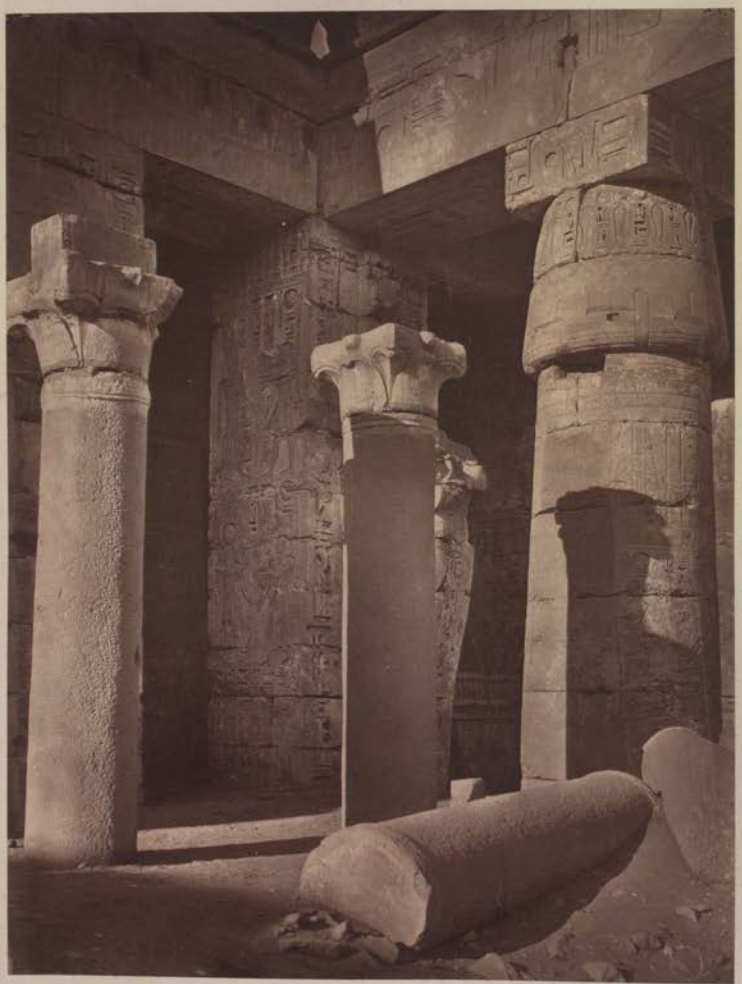
The height of the roof of the church can be traced by the markings in the pillars; it is probable, however, that some of the holes cut for bearing the rafters are due to the modern village which once occupied this site.



25 NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF THE GRAND COURT.

Northern Corridor of the Grand Court.

THE next photograph shows the inner division of the northern corridor. It is here that the colouring of the sculptures is more perfect than in any other portion of the temple. The vivid blue and red are in parts undimmed in brightness, and give a richness to the whole, which is missing in the sun picture. The circular columns are some seven feet in diameter and about twenty-four feet in height, and they, together with the pillars, are covered with figures of a colossal size and explanatory inscriptions. These latter are very deeply incised, being as much as two inches in depth; their complete preservation is probably due to this fact. The length of the colonnade is divided into two distinct portions, each one monopolizing four columns and the same number of pillars. The space between the fourth and fifth column and pillar is somewhat greater than that between the remainder, for here it is that the gateway leading to the hall of columns is placed. The roof is ornate, being decorated with coloured carvings of an elaborate character. The single slabs by which the corridor is spanned must weigh somewhere about seven tons each, and their careful tooling bear evidence of the mathematical accuracy with which the ancient masons were wont to work. The opening at the end of the corridor leads to the outside of the temple, on the external walls of which are a series of historical sketches, unique in detail and interest.

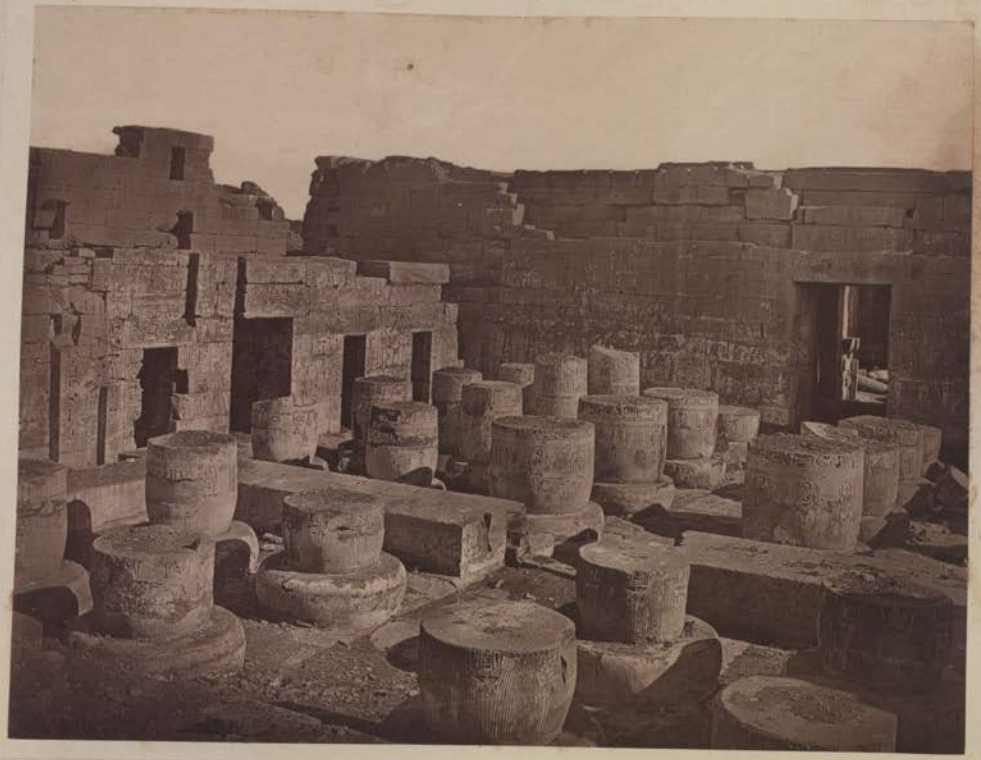


XL. EAST END OF THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF THE GRAND COURT.

East End of the Northern Corridor of the Grand Court.

Our final view of this court is the angle formed by the northern and eastern corridors, in the interior of which is a small gloomy chamber. The means of illuminating this chamber by daylight is but small, there being only one large opening, looking into the eastern colonnade, left for the purpose. To examine the hieroglyphics within, it is almost necessary to have resort to artificial light, as they are very indistinct, owing to the walls being blackened from the fires of its latest inhabitants.

There is nothing finer in Thebes than this colonnaded court; though not so striking or magnificent as the Grand Hall of Karnak, yet there is a something indescribable about it, which recalls it to our thoughts more frequently than any other site that we visited.



XII. REMAINS OF THE HYPOSTYLE HALL.

Remains of the Hypostyle Hall.

PASSING through the gateway in the northern corridor, we come to a more recently excavated hall, the bases of the columns of which alone remain. Whether the columns themselves were used to form the supports for the Christian church or not is open to doubt, though the convenience of having the material at hand may have induced their employment for the purpose. This area must have been subdivided at least into two or three portions, for so the foundations and lower course of the dividing walls seem to indicate. Judging from the dimensions of the bases, it appears probable that the hall must have been about twenty-six feet in height, and that it had the same architectural characteristics as the preceding court. There can be no doubt that it was roofed, and formed the main part of the temple, as on each side of it are doorways, leading to chambers, possibly used as dwelling-houses by the priests, or as store-rooms of the various paraphernalia requisite for the religious ceremonies which took place within it. Recently the ruins of an Arab village covered the site, and but a few years have elapsed since the remains of the pillars were unburied. The appearance of the bases is peculiar, as they seemingly have a thick coating of whitewash on them.

XIII. SIDE-CHAMBER FROM THE HYPOSTYLE HALL.

Side Chamber from the Hypostyle Hall.

THE next portion chosen for illustration is one of the small chambers leading out of the hall. It is the most highly sculptured of the series, and the procession depicted on the longitudinal stones which supported the roof is very quaint. The remains of the stone steps and the traces on the walls seem to indicate that a staircase led from this chamber to the flat top of the adjacent hall. In other temples we have similar examples of access to the summit of the building, Edfoo being perhaps the most perfect.

XIV. GENERAL VIEW OF THE TEMPLE FROM THE NORTH.

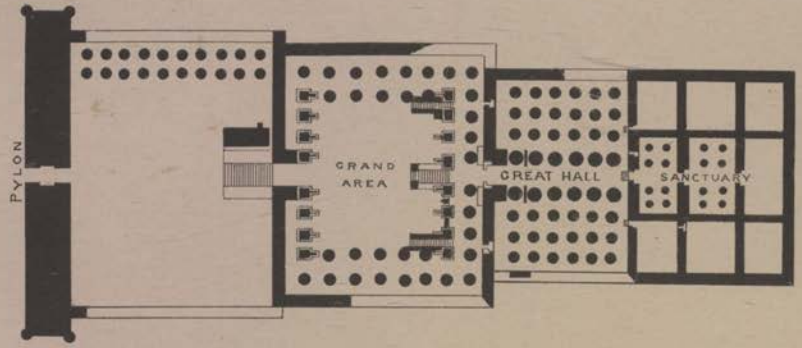
General View of the Temple from the North.

THE last photograph of Medinet Haboo gives a bird's-eye view of the whole of the large temple. First, we have the hall of columns; next, the large and beautiful hypæthral court, whilst beyond this again rise the towers of the first and second pylons. To the right of the last pylon, only more distant, the ruins of the king's palace may be discerned. The Sanctuary of the small temple lies directly below the left-hand tower of the same pylon, at a distance of but little more than 100 feet. To the eye this view gives a better idea of the general proportions and dimensions of the temple than does any other. It is only here that we get a distinct notion of the height of the masses of masonry which flanked the main gateways, in comparison with that of the enclosed courts. Far in the distance, on the left of the picture, stand the ruins of Karnak, dwarfed, but still discernible. Beyond this again can be traced the distant hills which bound the desert, four miles from the river at this point.

The mound on which the camera was planted was, like all the débris in the temple, composed of soil and chips of old but well-burnt pottery ware. Presumably much of the latter is of the Roman period; certain markings seemed to lead us to that conclusion. Be it as it may, it is certainly not all of modern date. From careful examination we are

disposed to think that quite as much as one-sixth of the whole of the débris is this burnt pottery. The height to which the rubbish has accumulated is the result of one village after another occupying the same site, the new building material being transported from the hill side and the river banks.

PLAN
OF THE
MEMNONIUM TEMPLE.



Scale, 100 feet - One Inch.

35

THE MEMNONIUM,

OR

RAMESEUM.

THE TEMPLE FROM THE SOUTH.

SOUTH-EAST COLONNADE OF THE SECOND COURT AND THE FALLEN COLOSSUS.

VIEW OF NORTH-WEST END OF THE INNER COURT.

THE GREAT HALL, MEMNONIUM.

THE TEMPLE FROM THE NORTH.

TOMBS OF SHEYKH ABD-EL-KOORNEH.

XV. THE TEMPLE FROM THE SOUTH.

The Temple from the South.

THIS temple is to the north-west of the Colossi, and is approached by a narrow pathway across the intervening plain. Situated on the edge of the desert, it is beyond the reach of the highest Nile, and thus escapes the danger which threatens its neighbour on the eastern shore. The name Memnonium may be a Greek corruption of one of the names of the king, Rameses II., to whom it is dedicated; his royal title is:—

"Ra-user-ma Setep-en-Ra Mei-amon Ramessu, or Sun-strong in truth, approved of the Sun, loved of Ammon, Sunborn."

The penultimate name is that which is supposed to be the foundation of the Temple's appellation. The derivation of Rameseum is self-evident. Some authorities infer that the true Memnonium temple occupied a totally different site, being built behind the Colossi. Ruins there being still extant favours this supposition.

Built by Rameses 3300 years ago, or, at all events, nearly completed by him, the temple has a unity of design about it, generally wanting in most of the other Theban structures, to which, as a rule, additions have been made during many succeeding centuries. The general design is shown in the photograph, which was taken some hundred paces to the south of the Sanctuary. In comparing it with the preceding

plan it will be seen that the whole of the masonry which marked the first area between the first and the second pylons is swept away, nothing more than traces of it being left to mark its existence. The first pylon itself is sadly ruined, the exterior of the northern tower being nothing more than a heap of huge stones. The second area or court, which occupied the space between the second pylon and the Grand Hall, is also denuded of its northern and southern boundaries. There are, however, noble remains on the eastern side, and also of the façade which adorned the Grand Hall. The architecture of the whole is of a very high order, the proportions fine, and it has a completeness which is well worthy of study. To the east and north the river winds its way through a narrow strip of fertile country, whilst beyond it again the low eastern range of hills rise in yellow barrenness. Nearly due east lies Karnak, distant some 2½ miles. Towards the south the Colossi can be seen, with Medinet Haboo in the distance, and again to the north the old Temple of Goorneh, as it is called. On the west the Libyan hills, studded with rock-cut tombs, come close to the temple.

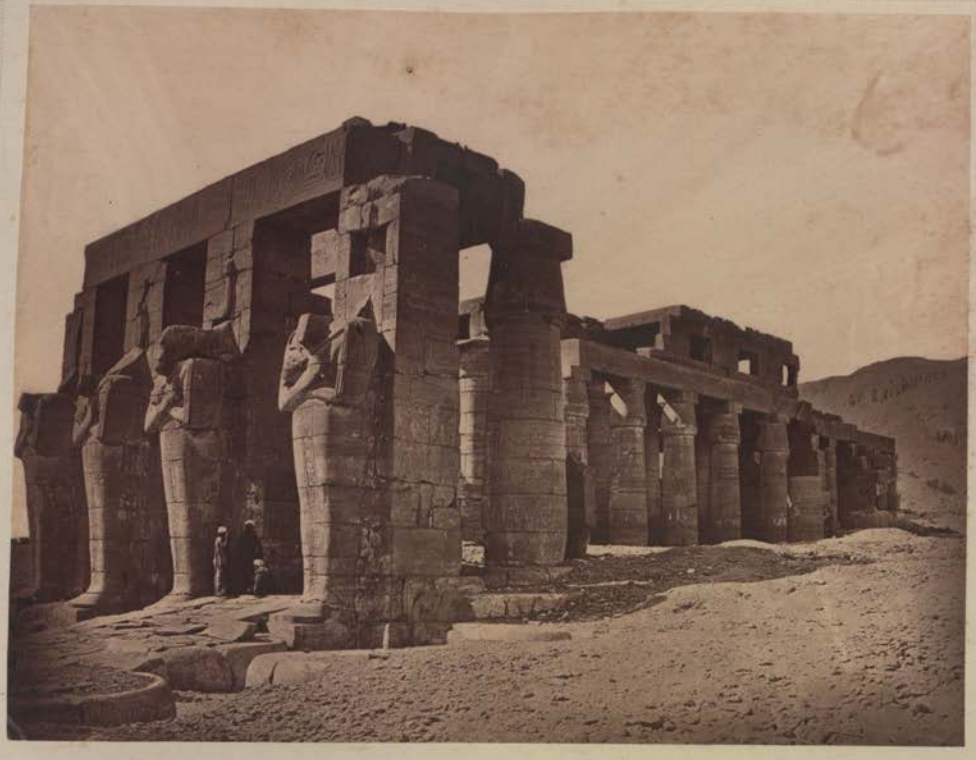
XVI. SOUTH-EAST COLONNADE OF THE SECOND COURT AND THE FALLEN COLOSSUS.

South-east Colonnade of the Second Court and the Fallen Colossus.

THE photograph before us shows the remains of the second pylon, and also of a Colossal Statue of Rameses the Great. It differs from its comrades of the plain in the character of the stone whence it was hewn. Made of syenite, procured from near Assouan, it must have weighed nearly 900 tons, a weight so enormous that the possibility of its conveyance for a distance of some 150 miles can scarcely be credited. Though broken completely, yet the exterior surface of the figure is perfect, and even now is almost polished, and the inscriptions on it are singularly sharp and well preserved. The labour of carving out this Colossus must have been of no slight difficulty, as the hardness of the material is such that the best tempered tools alone could be employed.

The mode adopted for transporting these Colossi from the quarry (where they were probably completely finished) is found in certain records still extant. Apparently vast numbers of slaves were yoked to a sledge, in which the Colossus was placed, and inch by inch it was dragged along a road made expressly for it.

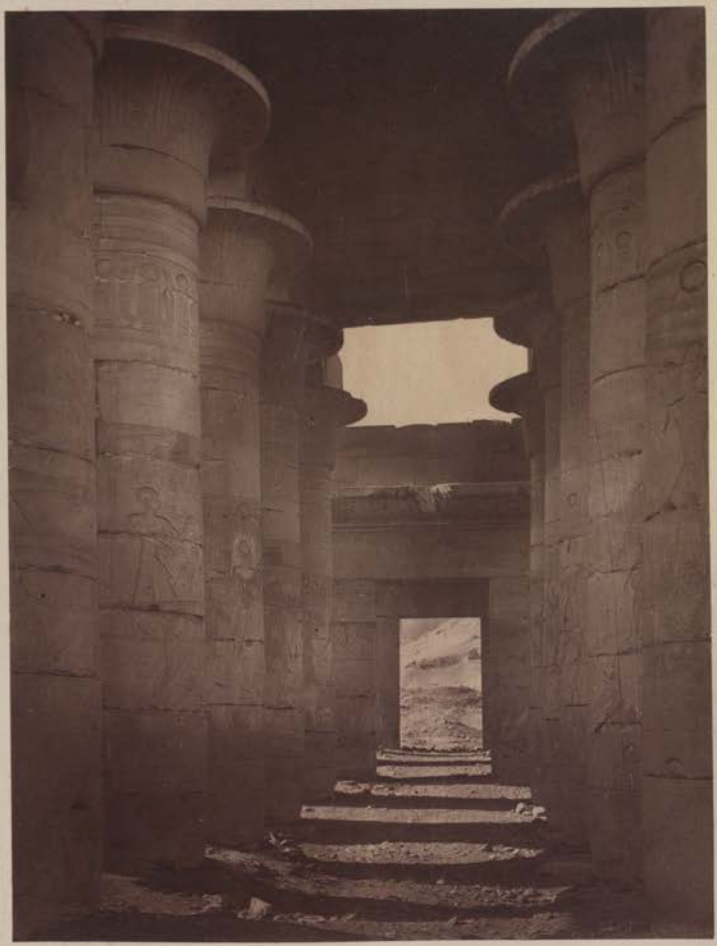
The impressment of huge gangs of labourers to effect transport of a similar nature has survived in Egypt to within quite modern times.



XVII. VIEW OF NORTH-WEST END OF THE INNER COURT.

View of North-west End of the Inner Court.

On the north-west and south-east sides of the second area are colonnades, formed by square pillars, with osiride figures, facing towards the main entrance, and by circular bud-headed columns facing towards the Sanctuary. Though each originally were eight in number on the north-west side, of pillars and columns but four remain. Three flights of stairs led through this colonnade to the Great Hall, the northern one of which can be traced in the photograph (the summit of it being occupied by a group of Arabs). Beyond the fourth pillar was the grand central staircase, of which but débris remains at present. In the original building came another set of three pillars, then another staircase, and again another pillar. Beautiful as the colonnade is now, it must have been surpassingly impressive when the whole of it was standing and the sculptured figures intact. Behind it we see the Hypostyle, or Grand Hall, as it is called, the former name "being derived from having over the lateral columns what in Gothic architecture would be called a *clerestory*, through which the light is admitted to the central portion of the hall" (Fergusson's History of Architecture). Here we gain a good idea of this clerestory, portions of which are in a fair state of preservation. The bud-headed columns should be remarked, this form of capital being of a different style to that adopted for the central columns.



XVIII. THE GREAT HALL, MEMNONIUM.

The Great Hall.

DIRECTLY opposite the central staircase is the main entrance to the Great Hall, which follows the usual design. The two central rows of columns are, as Fergusson remarks, "so tall, as to equal the height of the side columns, together with that of the attic which is placed on them. They are generally of different orders, the central pillars having a bell-shaped capital, the under side of which was perfectly illuminated from the mode in which the light was introduced; while in the side pillars the capital was narrower at the top than at the bottom, apparently for the sake of allowing its ornaments to be seen." The central columns here have a height of about thirty-three feet, and are graceful and highly decorated. The hall is roofed over with slabs, varying from eight feet in length, and a good general idea of the lighting of this portion of a temple can be formed, though not so perfectly as at Edfoo. The principal injury done to the building seems to have been the work of human agency, as most of the sculptures are defaced in a ruthless manner. In the plan only those portions of the building printed with shading are standing; the amount of damage that has been done to the Great Hall alone can be estimated—out of forty-eight columns which bore its roof, fourteen have been overthrown.

Through the end of the gateway, at the extreme end of the hall, are traces of two chambers; others probably existed.

XIX. THE TEMPLE FROM THE NORTH.

General View from the North.

THE view of the Temple from the north possesses great interest, for a bird's-eye view of some of the sculptures which adorn the walls is admirably obtained. The two small chambers which led out from the Grand Hall occupy the right of the picture.

In the first of these chambers the roof is covered with an astronomical design, somewhat quaintly executed, but well worthy of attention, as showing the knowledge then possessed of the science of astronomy. On the walls of the propylon is a description of a war with a tribe called the Khetas, or Khitas, by Rameses the Great. The third Sallier papyrus, translated by Professor Lushington, also bears corroborative evidence of the accuracy of this inscription. The sculptures tell us that "the King of Egypt came up to fight against Kairkamash, by Euphrates," which town has been identified as Carchemish (2 Chron. xxxv. 10), and in the Assyrian annals, as Gargamish, between Katesh and the Euphrates. In the papyrus we read, "Several days after that King Rameses was in the town, Rameses Meiamon, moving northward, he reached the border of Katesh, then marched onwards, like his father Mintu, towards Orontes. The 1st brigade of Ammon that brings victory to King Rameses (accompanied him), he was nearing the town; then the vile Chief Khita came: he gathered forces from the margin of the sea to the land of Khita; came all the Nahaima, the Airatu, the Masu, the *Kairkamaska*, and inhabitants of other cities."

The war was apparently undertaken in the fifth year of King Rameses,

and the Temple constructed during the latter portion of his reign of sixty-six years, which Lepsius calculates to have extended from 1388 to 1322 B.C.

When the mounds which surround this pile of buildings were houses of the aristocracy, standing in cultivated gardens, with palms and shrubs overshadowing them, the Memnonium must have been a glorious edifice, worthy of the other great buildings which stood within the Thebaid.

XX. TOMBS OF SHEYKH ABD EL-KOORNEH.

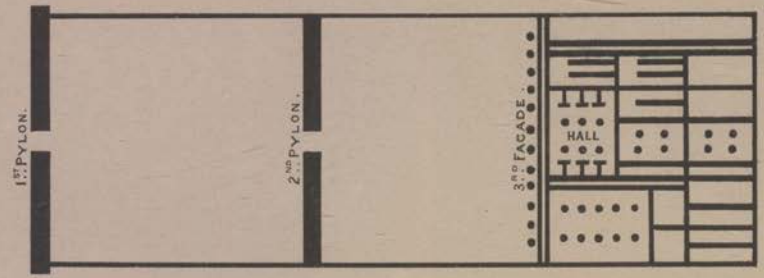
Tombs of Sheykh Abd-el-Koorneh.

In the hills, at foot of which lies the Memnonium, terraces are cut, from which are pierced in the solid rock what appear to be galleries. Each of these was a place of sepulture, probably of some aristocratic family, where, after being embalmed, the bodies were deposited, as they supposed, for 3000 years. Many of these tombs are sculptured, some with historical episodes, and others with scenes showing the manners and customs of the period. Much light has been thrown on the domestic life of that day by the study of the inscriptions, and probably more has been learnt from them, than from the more magnificent records embellishing the Tombs of the Kings. The whole of the ground, between the temple and the hills, was a vast necropolis, and it is literally hollow with what were the tombs of the general community. The entrances were originally concealed, but now as a rule they are open, having been discovered by the Arabs, who rifle the mummies of their beads and jewelry, and find a good market for such "antiques" amongst the many European and American travellers who annually visit the locality. It was near here that we visited one of the recently-opened mummy pits, containing some hundreds of corpses. The remains of the bodies, often torn limb from limb and decapitated, were so repellent to the sight, to good feeling, and to the nose, that we had no desire to enter another.

Near the temple spacious brick vaults, covered in with semicircular arches, are encountered. Their existence refutes the idea that the ancient Egyptians were unacquainted with the principle of the arch, although the absence from the temples of this method of building gives *primâ facie* colouring to the notion. As the bricks bear the stamp of Rameses the Great, it can hardly be doubted but that these chambers were built during his reign.

The view shows both the tombs of Sheykh Abd-el-Koorneh and also the crowns of some of the vaults just described. The desolateness of this portion of the country can only be appreciated by the traveller, who views it on a November day, in a temperature of about 96° in the shade.

PLAN
OF THE
TEMPLE OF GOORNEH.



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GOORNEH TEMPLE.

THE FAÇADE, GOORNEH TEMPLE.

AN INTERIOR VIEW OF THE TEMPLE OF GOORNEH.

XXI THE FACADE GOURNEH TEMPLE

The Façade, Goorneh Temple.

THE last temple on the western bank of the Nile which we shall visit is the Goorneh Temple, or Temple of Errebek. The former name is derived from the old village of Goorneh, which at one time flourished around a Coptic church that occupied the site of the ancient courts. The latter name is probably derived from *Ra*, the sun, and *baki*, a city. The edifice was built by King Sethi the First, and finished by his son, Rameses the Great, and is remarkable for an order of architecture which is particularly elegant. The columns of the façade are mostly at unequal distances apart, presenting to the eye irregularity, which, though not conspicuous, is yet quite noticeable. Cut out of sandstone, they still remain unaffected by the lapse of time, excepting near their bases, where seemingly later generations of masons have sharpened their tools, if we may judge from the grooved notches that apparently have been worn away through this cause. The plan of the temple shows two pylons and three towers, little of which, however, remain, except traces of the foundations. Connecting them was a dromos of sphinxes, and yet another, extending from the second pylon to the façade. The remains of these can scarcely be traced, owing to the débris accumulated over them. On the architrave over the façade is a dedication of the temple by Rameses to "his father Amunre, King of the Gods," and a statement implying that the building was commenced by Sethi I.

This temple is more than half a mile to the north of the Memnonium, and its direct approach from the small village facing Luxor, is along a track traversing well-cultivated ground. To the north-west is the entrance to the valley in which are situated the celebrated Tombs of the Kings.

XXII. INTERIOR VIEW OF THE TEMPLE OF GOORNEH.

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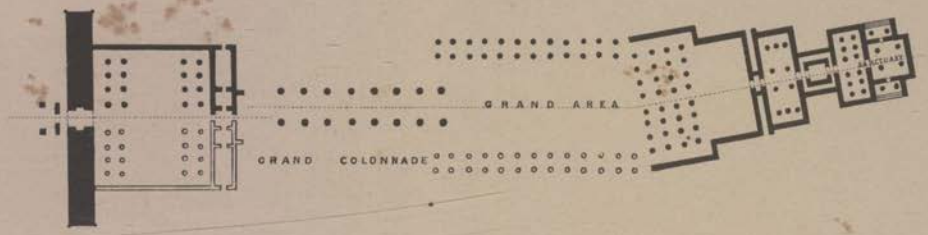
An Interior View.

NEARLY the whole of the chambers lying outside the main hall are in ruins, though enough of the walls are left standing to enable the inscriptions to be traced and translated.

The photograph represents one of the lateral chambers, with sculptures on the left-hand walls.

Excepting the façade, there is little in this temple to interest any one but the Egyptologist. To the artist or photographer it offers few attractions, the building being in most cases a chaos of stone, piled up in such a manner as effectually to prevent any picturesque view being secured.

Plan of The Temple Of Luxor



Scale 100 Ft. = 1 Inch.

0 100 200 300 400 ft.

55

LUXOR.

LUXOR FROM THE RIVER.

THE GRAND COLONNADE. GRAND COURT.

OBELISK AND PYLON.

XXIII. LUXOR FROM THE RIVER.

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Luxor from the River.

THE Temple of Luxor is situated near the bank of the river, though but little of it can be seen as one approaches the town, the modern whitewashed mud houses almost completely shutting out its view. The dahabeahs, however, are usually moored at the only spot from which the tops of the columns of the Great Colonnade are visible, and after ascending the bank a few yards the whole of it comes into sight. Our expedition was located on a small island to the south, from the end of which the annexed view was taken. Directly facing us is the house where Lady Duff Gordon so long resided—an Englishwoman, whose name is a household word among the inhabitants. Beloved and respected by all, her death seems to have left a blank in the little town which never can be filled in the hearts of the natives who enjoyed her friendship. A portion of the house is built upon one of the chambers which led out of the Sanctuary, resting upon part of the enclosure wall and its columns. The courts of the Sanctuary are still in a state of fair preservation, having been restored in the time of the Roman occupation, and bear inscriptions of that period. On the columns there are remains of colours which are much damaged, probably by damp exhalations. The Sanctuary itself is almost completely covered with native houses, and it is hard

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to trace exactly the general run of the buildings. Along the river bank runs a stone quay of very fair masonry, constructed of blocks, bearing sculptures of the Roman period. It marks the changeable course of the Nile, which even in the last fifty years has deviated considerably from its original bed. At the time of the survey of Egypt, the maps executed under Linant show that great variations in the position of the banks have taken place. Between Thebes and Keneh whole islands seem to have disappeared, and the approach and retrogression of the desert at certain points are very marked. On the Karnak side of Luxor too, the direction of the quay points out the course that it formerly took, much of what is now a fertile plain being once the bed of the river.

XXIV. THE GRAND COLONNADE.

The Grand Colonnade.

THE Grand Colonnade may be taken as marking the central position of the present town, and around it are the residences of the principal consular agents (generally natives). The British representative, Mustapha Agâ, has converted a portion of it into a verandah, such as never can have graced another house. The columns are splendid massive-looking giants, some eleven feet in diameter, though their full height is hidden, the bases at present being buried a good many feet in the ground. They form a double row leading to the pylon (which can be seen in the distance in the photograph), and have the general *contour* of the central columns of the Grand Hall at Karnak. The inscriptions on them are not very deeply cut, and the sandstone has in many cases worn away, leaving them only discernible on close inspection. The names of Amun-tonkh and Rameses both appear amongst them. The former name is generally defaced, and, according to Wilkinson, that of Horus or Sethi replaces it.

Amunoph III. seems to have built the whole of the temple, with the exception of the Grand Court or area, and the towers of the pylon, which were erected under the auspices of Rameses the Great, about the 14th century, or over a century later than the original building. The latter king also erected the obelisks, and the two colossal statues of himself at the gate of the pylon.

What part of the general design the Colonnade formed is not very apparent. In some sketches it has been shown as a portion of an enclosed court. Apparently, there is not sufficient data collected to justify this assumption, and in the plan we have preferred to show it as it is.

XXV. GRAND COURT

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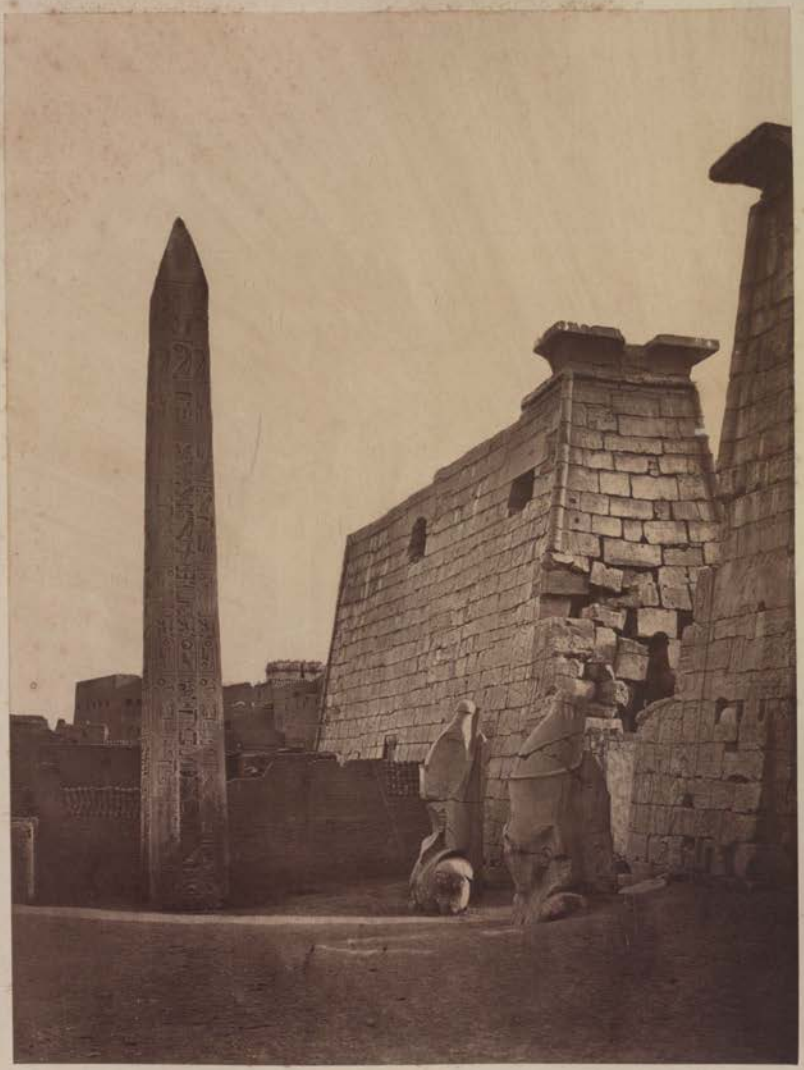
Grand Court.

THE most advantageous view of the Grand Court is to be obtained from the roofs of the houses which stretch from the Grand Colonnade to near the river bank. From the top of the Mudir's house the accompanying photograph was taken, only however showing the south end of the area. The elegant shape of the columns should be noted, though their beauty is diminished from their being buried some ten feet in sand. Originally, in a double row, they formed a peristyle, closing the court on two sides, whilst the northern end was bounded by the Great Colonnade, and the southern end was terminated by a hall four columns in depth by eight in width. This is now difficult to realize, as mud huts and out-buildings have so completely covered the site, that only the top of the structure in many cases can be seen. Behind the hall again is another court, and then the Sanctuary buildings previously described.



XXVI. OBELISK AND PYLON.

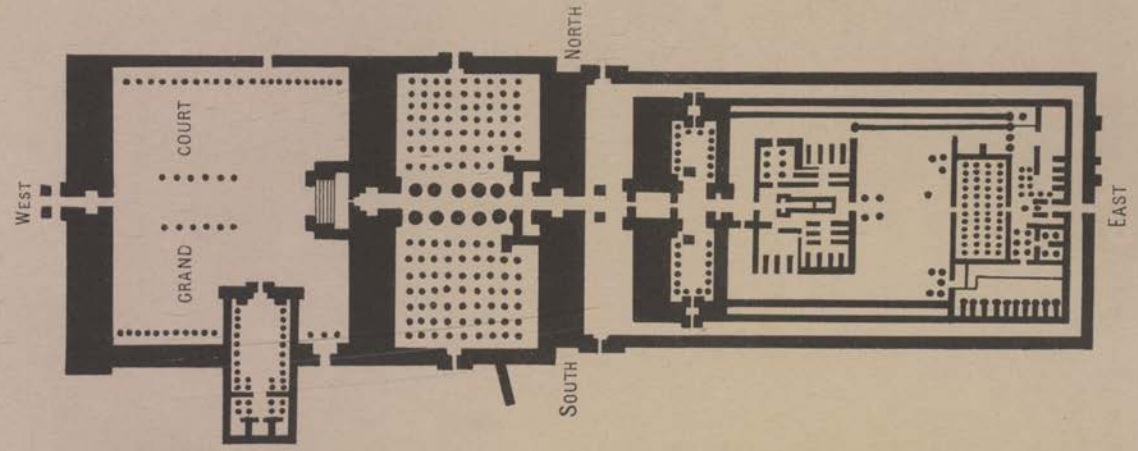
Obelisk and Pylon.

THE main entrance to the Temple of Luxor from the Karnak side (with which temple it was connected by a dromos of sphinxes) was through the Pylon, guarded by the usual towers. From the point of view chosen, the architecture of modern and ancient Egypt can be compared: the one telling of poverty in the sun-burnt brick hovels, the other speaking of a magnificence which the lapse of centuries has been unable to efface. The granite Obelisk is one of the most perfect in existence, and the sculptures are singularly sharp and deeply cut. Its fellow, which occupied the spot whence the photograph was taken, now ornaments the Place de la Concorde, at Paris, but this one is the property of the British nation, though it has never attempted its removal. The inscriptions on the French Obelisk have been fully translated by various Egyptologists, and, like those on its brother, are fulsome eulogies on the virtues and power of the great Rameses. At present its full height is not shown, being buried some twenty feet in sand. At the time of the visit of the Prince of Wales, its pediment was uncovered for his inspection, but the sand has since refilled the excavation then made. The crown and heads of two colossal statues of the king appear above the surface of the ground. Formerly they guarded the gateway, the lintel of which was nearly on a level with the summits of the double crowns.

The towers of the Pylon are covered with sculptures of battle scenes, some of which can be traced in the photograph, and the gateway itself bore inscriptions of dedication.

In taking leave of Luxor, one cannot but feel ashamed at the neglected state into which this glorious pile of buildings has been allowed to degenerate. Though not advocating despotism, yet surely the Khedive might, without much injury to the inhabitants, demolish the semi-barbarous dwellings which cling to it, and preserve as a monument, sacred to the whole civilized world, a temple, once one of the principal glories of Thebes, the capital of Upper Egypt.

Plan of
Great Temple of Karnak.



KARNAK.

THE MODERN VILLAGE, NEAR KARNAK.

GATEWAY OF PTOLEMY EUERGETES.

INTERIOR OF THE SMALL TEMPLE, KARNAK.

FIRST AREA OF THE GREAT TEMPLE, KARNAK.

THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF THE GRAND AREA.

THE GRAND HALL, KARNAK.

SMALLER COURT, WITH THE OBELISK OF THOTHMES.

THE SANCTUARY.

THE SANCTUARY AND GRAND HALL FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

A PYLON, WITH COLOSSI.

EDIFICE OF THOTHMES III.

SMALL TEMPLE TO THE EAST.

KARNAK FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

VIEW OF THE GREAT TEMPLE FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

XXVII. THE MODERN VILLAGE, NEAR KARNAK.

The Modern Village, near Karnak.

THE road from Luxor to Karnak lies across a slightly undulating plain, here and there broken from absolute monotony by a clump of palms. Now and again, too, the remains of some of the sphinxes which formed an avenue between the two temples are to be met with. The Nile is lost sight of when once you leave Luxor, and only a glimpse of it is caught now and then till you come close to the pylon of the Great Temple of Karnak. With the exception of a few Mohammedan remains, there is nothing to testify to the richer habitations which must have occupied this part, even after the glory of the city of Thebes had departed. The small village, which occupies a slightly elevated position on the left of the path traversed, is a sorry transformation from magnificence to squalor. The few inhabitants are of the poorest class, some of whom earn their livelihood by the manufacture of "antiques," of which the stranger should beware. It has happened to us that a would-be relic of three or four thousand years was offered for sale while still warm from the kiln, and with all the evidences of vulgar workmanship upon it. Yet, strange to say, such are eagerly bought by the tourist; and, without doubt, many a modern manufactured scarabee, having the appearance of venerable age, has passed into his hands as a precious and expensive memento of ancient Egyptian workmanship. A rather protracted stay at Thebes gave us many opportunities of witnessing the manufacture of these "antiques," and soon led us to be wary of purchasing any curiosities which were offered us.

XXVIII. GATEWAY OF PTOLEMY EUERGETES.

Gateway of Ptolemy Euergetes.

LEAVING the village behind, one proceeds along a road deep in sand, which, during the annual inundations, is the bed of a stream. On each side are the remains of sphinxes, which formed part of the grand avenue previously mentioned. The path is terminated by a beautiful gateway, dedicated to, or bearing the names of Ptolemy Euergetes and his queen and sister Berenice. Being of more recent date, it is in better preservation than most of the older portions. The sculptures are as sharp and clean almost as on the day when they were executed, excepting where they have been obscured by the habitations of a species of ant. The base of the gateway is slightly worn from the overflow of the Nile waters, but centuries must elapse before any real danger to it can occur.

In the photograph the pylon of the small temple of Karnak is to be seen in the mid-distance. This temple was commenced by Rameses III., and continued by his successors, the names of two of them being found inscribed on its walls.

The monolithic figure on the left is one of the sphinxes which formed the avenue, and is a fair specimen of the state of preservation in which the majority are to be found. On the right, in the distance, the obelisks of the Great Temple may be seen rising above an enclosure wall.

XXIX. INTERIOR OF THE SMALL TEMPLE, KARNAK.

Interior of the Small Temple.

FROM the gateway of Ptolemy Euergetes another avenue of sphinxes leads to the pylon just mentioned, and passing through its doorway you enter a small hypæthral court, round which runs a colonnade of bud-headed columns. There is nothing particularly striking in this court after seeing those of Medinet Haboo and the Memnonium, but if it were a solitary example it would be pronounced as being of a high order of architecture. The colonnade is in very fair preservation, and the inscriptions on the architraves readily decipherable. Opposite the outer entrance is another doorway, leading into what must have been the Sanctuary, and it is this portion of the edifice that has been chosen as an illustration of the architectural style. The view shows the central columns, with the bell-shaped capitals, on each side of which is a row of bud-headed columns. Massive stone slabs form the roof, and the light was admitted as usual through a species of clerestory. To the right and left of this hall are doorways leading to side chambers of more than usual dimensions; their walls are covered with inscriptions of great historic value, most of which have been translated by Mariette. A stone staircase leads to the top of the building, up which it is hard to make one's way, the steps being encumbered with blocks which have fallen from the walls and the roof.

XXX. FIRST AREA OF THE GREAT TEMPLE, KARNAK.

First Area of the Great Temple.

LEAVING the smaller temple, and bearing towards the south-west, a couple of hundred yards brings you to the majestic pylon of the Great Temple. In order fully to gain an idea of its immensity it is better to approach it from the river, whence its height of a hundred and fifty feet can be appreciated. Perhaps there is no happier view of Karnak than that to be obtained when approaching Thebes at sunset in your dahabeah. Bathed in a rosy light and nestling amongst palms the pylon seems to be the most prominent feature in the landscape, though as the distance from Luxor diminishes, the other giant piles of masonry gradually open out to the eye, and each in its turn becomes the object of interest; every successive picture is unique, and would defy the artist's skill to do it justice, the gorgeous colouring being beyond the range of the palette.

Entering the gateway of the pylon, you find yourself in an immense courtyard, some 275 by 330 feet in dimensions, and the first object that attracts the eye is the entrance to the Grand Hall, which is situated exactly opposite. Formerly the approach to it was through a colonnade, of which but one column remains complete, the bases of the others alone marking their positions. To the right and left of the Hall are huge masses of square cut stone, lying in shapeless heaps, which are the ruins of the towers of the second pylon.

XXXI. NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF THE GRAND AREA.

The Northern Corridor of the Grand Court.

APPROACHING the Grand Hall, and looking south, an idea is gained of the corridors which formed the northern and southern boundaries of the Great Court. On the northern side the symmetry is broken by a small temple (now partially filled up with sand carried by wind and river), dedicated to Rameses III. Being built at a lower level than the Great Temple it appears dwarfed beside it, and often at first escapes attention.

The one remaining column of the colonnade, referred to in the descriptive text of the last photograph, will be noticed as slightly out of the perpendicular. This defect may be a clue to the cause of the ruined condition of the remainder. Whether the foundations have given way and so impelled their overthrow is a matter of conjecture, yet it seems highly probable that such is the case, when the nature of the ground on which they stood is taken into account, together with the fact that the inundations almost invariably reach the level of this area. That there is also an infiltration of water from the Nile seems to be an accepted fact, and this alone might be the cause of much of the damage

done to the structure generally, though the comparatively-speaking perfect condition of the Grand Hall seems to imply the contrary.

On the extreme left of the photograph is a partially buried and much mutilated granite statue of Rameses III. Its companion, which guarded the other side of the entrance, has disappeared.

XXXII. THE GRAND HALL, KARNAK.

The Grand Hall.

WE turn next to the Grand Hall, which is rightly considered the most wonderful and splendid building in Thebes. The interior contains in all 134 columns: the central ones are twelve in number, 64 feet in height and 11 feet 6 inches in diameter at their base. The remaining columns are 42 feet 6 inches in height, with a diameter of nearly 9 feet. The plan shows their general arrangement. Sir Gardiner Wilkinson states that the lintel of the doorway was formed of one solid block of stone, and measured 40 feet 10 inches in length,—a huge mass to be raised over 60 feet in height, and then placed in position. All the columns are richly carved and were decorated with colour, patches of which are still visible. The Grand Hall is rich in historical scenes sculptured on the enclosure walls; they principally relate to the victorious campaigns of Sethi I., and his son, Rameses the Great. Among them is an account of the latter king's war with the Khitas, and also the treaty of peace made with Khetasar, their king. They are confirmatory of the history related on the walls of the Memnonium.

There is a certain majesty about this building which can scarcely be described. The feeling that everything around, though beautiful, is yet colossal, creates a bewildering sense of the engineering skill that these artists in masonry possessed. The small size of the photograph conveys no adequate idea of the dimensions. To be appreciated, the Grand Hall of Karnak should be seen.

XXXIII. SMALLER COURT WITH THE OBELISK OF THOTHMES.

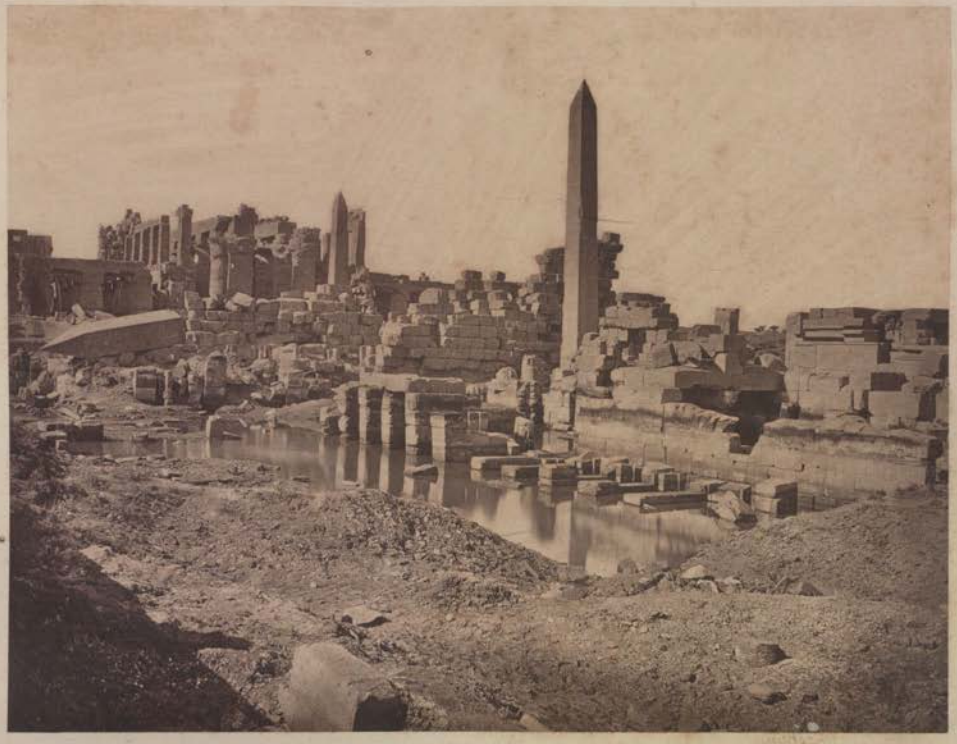
Small Court, with the Obelisk of Thothmes.

At the end of the Great Hall is the third propylon, behind which stand two Obelisks, dedicated to Thothmes I. and Rameses II. The two are shown in the photograph, together with the remains of a fourth propylon, and a small court, round which once circled osiride columns. The ruin of the propylons is so complete that to the casual observer it is at first hard to realize entirely the design of this part of the temple. Sir Gardiner Wilkinson (and Mariette Bey later) have, however, given plans of the whole of the temple, by which it can be seen that architectural unity has been carefully preserved. The view was taken from near the enclosure wall, which once encircled the entire building, and from whence an excellent idea can be obtained of the various edifices. Behind the remains of the third propylon, shown on the left of the picture, stands the Great Hall, the smaller columns of which are hidden by the fallen masonry. In the far distance may be traced the remains of a temple, now nearly buried, and which was dedicated to Amunoph III. Judging by the plan of its foundations, it must have been one of considerable magnitude, probably larger than the small temple already described.

XXXIV. THE SANCTUARY.

The Sanctuary.

PROCEEDING a few yards further along the enclosure wall we come to the Sanctuary buildings. When we first visited Karnak the Nile had left the floors of this portion of the building covered with water. To the inhabitants of the adjoining villages it was a fish-pond, which they successfully netted, the produce keeping them in luxury for several weeks. When we finally quitted Thebes the whole of the site was dry, and we were thus enabled to examine this portion in a more satisfactory manner than we could by wading. The granite-formed Sanctuary is surrounded by chambers of a less durable material, all of which are, more or less, in a state of ruin. On them are numerous inscriptions of early date, such as the name of Thothmes III., and other kings of the same period, though the fact that certain columns bear the name of Osirtassen (about the date 3000 B.C.), seems to indicate that this part was originally erected about the period of his reign, and probably restored in that of Thothmes, and again in the Roman period, as the name of Philip Aridœus appears on the walls. In the distance is the temple of Thothmes III., a structure somewhat remarkable from certain peculiarities which occur in the architectural details, and to which reference will subsequently be made.



XXXV. THE SANCTUARY AND GRAND HALL FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

The Sanctuary and Grand Hall from the South-East.

FROM a point a little more to east a very fair view is obtained of the Sanctuary, the Obelisks, and the Grand Hall. The nearest obelisk in the photograph is a monolith of gigantic size, rising to a height of ninety-two feet. It bears the name of Amun-nou-het or Hatasoo, the daughter of Thothmes I., from which circumstance it is supposed that this monarch erected that portion of the temple on which site it stands. Its date probably would be about the 16th century B.C.

This is the second finest obelisk that is known to exist, the largest being the Lateran obelisk (so designated from being erected in the piazza of the Lateran) which bears the name of Thothmes. Regarding obelisks, Fergusson says, "Their use seems to have been wholly that of monumental pillars, recording the style and title of the king who erected them, his piety, and the proof he gave of it, in dedicating these monoliths to the deity whom he especially wished to honour." On the obelisk of Amun-nou-het is an inscription (which Wilkinson has translated), showing that only seven months were employed in its erection, including the time required for its transport from the quarry at Assouan, near the first Cataract.

It will be noticed that the site of the Sanctuary is considerably lower than that of the Grand Hall, and consequently of the first great area. This difference in level, and also the difference in colossal proportions which marks them, justify the conclusion that this section of the buildingis of earlier date than that comprising the last two.

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A Pylon, with Colossi.

In continuation of the line of the court, surrounded with the corridor of osiride figures (see page 73), are a series of four pylons, apparently leading up to its entrance. That nearest the temple is now scarcely to be traced, whilst the view before us gives a sketch of the second. The two monolithic figures, sculptured in the usual sitting attitude, are the remains of what was once a row of Colossi; traces of others being still visible amongst the débris. The probable date of these pylons is from 1700 to 1450 B.C. They must have been situated in one of the grand avenues leading to the temple, as they mark at intervals some half-mile of ground. We may suppose that a dromos of sphinxes connected them one with the other, as was the case in other temples on the western side.

XXXVII. EDIFICE OF THOTHMES III.

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Edifice of Thothmes III.

In this building we again encounter a different style of architecture. It has an outer wall, and also a row of square pillars externally, and in the interior are twenty columns, bearing a roof. The four columns in the foreground formed part of an L-shaped colonnade; the bases of the double row of those which were in that portion running parallel to the building, are almost buried. These elegant columns are similar in general design to those found in the grand area of Luxor, erected by Amunoph III., and also to those forming the façade of the Gourneh Temple, erected by Sethi I. and Rameses the Great. They show marks of having been employed to support the rafters of more modern buildings, other remains of which are still visible amongst the débris around. To the east of this edifice is again another pylon, bearing the names of Nectanebo, Ptolemy Philadelphus, and Arsinoë. It can be seen in the photograph of the Sanctuary, at page 75.

XXXVIII. SMALL TEMPLE TO THE EAST.

Small Temple to the East.

To the east of the edifice dedicated to Thothmes III., a portion of a small temple has been excavated from out of a mound of rubbish, and in the cartouches, or ovals, on its walls and pillars, is inscribed the name of Rameses the Great. The photograph shows an interior view of a once-covered hall. The osiride figures which adorn it are in better preservation than most of a similar character to be met with, and the heads appear less mutilated than those at the Memnonium or at Medinet Haboo. The nearest pillar bears traces of restoration, though the design is well preserved, judging from the others, which are in their primitive state. There is a certain dignity about the expression of the faces quite characteristic of Egyptian sculpture. This same dignity of expression has been ascribed by writers of a poetical nature to certain well-known Egyptian figures, where the features are absolutely obliterated. Here, however, we have tolerably perfect specimens, about which it would be quite open for such to discourse upon, without drawing upon the imagination. Like most of the other buildings in Karnak, this temple is inundated at high Nile, and gives evidence of the work of the saline water in those portions of the bases which have been dissolved away.

XXXIX. KARNAK FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

Karnak from the South-East.

TOWARDS the south-east of the Grand Hall, and to the south of the last small temple, is a lake into which the Nile infiltrates; the whole of the ground being impregnated with nitre, its waters are saline to the taste, and almost unfit for drinking. On the south side of it are some remains of a more modern period, as they bear the name of Psammouthis, of the 29th dynasty. It was late in the afternoon that we reached this spot, and the effect of the setting sun on the buildings was so beautiful that we trusted that the camera might partially depict the light and shade which grouped themselves with such variety on the landscape. Unfortunately, the effect of colour is wanting: those portions in sunlight had a rosy tint upon them, which contrasted with the blue sky above and with its reflection in the lake below. Without this colour the great charm is absent, but nevertheless a good idea is formed of the relative proportions of towers, columns, and obelisks. The distant tower is that which guards the great area and the grand hall, whose columns can be distinguished in the central building; on the extreme left is the second pylon, leading to the hall of osiride figures, whose front view with the Colossi were shown in the photograph facing page 79.

View of the Great Temple from the North-West.

THE last view of Karnak is from the north-west, which perhaps exhibits the method of lighting the Grand Hall better than any one preceding. The remains of the clerestory are clearly shown, rising to the same height as the great central columns above the smaller. Near the site whence the picture was taken are a variety of ruins of different periods, so buried, however, as to be scarcely distinguishable. The débris of more modern dwellings has formed mounds over them, in some cases of many feet in depth. In them we find, as at Medinet Haboo, an accumulation of fragments of old pottery, wonderful for its quantity. Before bidding adieu to Karnak, one cannot but regret that more steps have not been taken to preserve the grand old masonry from the decay which is slowly increasing through the annual influx of the waters. It would not cause a great outlay, if protection were afforded to it in some simple manner. If also it were possible to prevent ignorant tourists from incising their ignoble names on the walls and columns, which should be sacred to the sculptures which beautify them, the pleasure which these ruins excite in a cultivated mind would be largely enhanced. For instance, it detracts from the glamour cast by the majestic columns of the Grand Hall, when the eye meets the names of Brown and Smith, or their foreign similarities, cut on them. A crowning indignity has been offered to one splendid monument by some nonentity, who, anxious to hand his initials down to immediate posterity, has painted them on the obelisk of

Thothmès III. in staring red colour (far above ordinary reach), with U. S. A. beneath. Was it necessary for this Goth to have thus thrown open discredit on his native country? Surely none but a most ill-educated "citizen" could have for very shame presumed to deface one of the chief glories of Karnak as he has done.

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